

## **Kentucky Environmental Education Council**

Fall Meeting October 23, 2003

Shakertown

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

Members Present: Frances Carter, Robin Chandler, Wade Helm, and Kurt Mason

Members not present: Horace Brown, Greg Higdon, Jeff Hohman, Yvonne Meichtry, and Evelyn Morgan

Guests: Joe Baust, Lou Deluca, Bill Martin

Staff: Jane Eller, John LeFevre

In Mr. Brown's absence, Mr. Mason, the Council Vice Chair, led the meeting and welcomed everyone. Since there was no quorum, the minutes could not be approved and were passed on to the next meeting. Mr. Mason asked Ms. Eller to report on Council current activities.

#### New staff

Ms. Eller introduced the Council's new staff member, John LeFevre, and asked him to tell a little about his background. Ms. Eller said it was her plan that the job description for this position be changed from a clerical position to a more professional position and that Mr. LeFevre would be able to help with projects including grant writing and fund raising. Council members welcome Mr. LeFevre

#### Transition documents

Ms. Eller asked Council members to review the transition documents in their packets. These are documents that Secretary Helm asked us to prepare for the new administration. The first is a one-page document describing the Council's mission, funding mechanisms and goals. The second is a document listing the five major issues facing the agency over the next four years. Council members had been given rough drafts of these documents in July and these current documents reflect the suggestions made by Council members at that time. (Documents attached.)

#### Budget and HB 174

Staff are currently writing the Council's budget proposals for the 2004-2006 biennium. These documents are submitted to the Governor's office. Ms. Jackie Warner of the Secretary's Office provides excellent support for us as we go through this process. Ms. Eller reported to the Council that she has not asked for additional funding for this biennium since the budget is so tight, but that she had pointed out throughout the

documents that the Council is nearing a crisis. If the legislature were to provide 5% salary increments (which is doubtful, but possible) this would reduce the Council's operating budget to \$21,000 in 2006.

There was general discussion of this and then of HB 174. HB 174 created the PRIDE fund, which provides that the Council receives the interest on that account up to \$1 million. However, this money will funnel through the agency to the state universities. Council members asked if we could retain some percentage of this for administrative fees since this would entail writing and overseeing eight separate MOA's. Ms. Eller said she had approached the universities about that when it was through the amount would be close to \$1 million and they had supported the idea. She had not discussed it with them since it appeared that it would now be considerably less.

There was general agreement among Council members that the agency should retain a small percentage of the PRIDE funds to administer the grants including supporting collaborative fund raising for the universities. The suggested amount was 7.5%.

Ms. Eller said, she had been thinking about how the Council could raise its own operating expenses since nearly all grant monies are for specific projects and not general operating costs. She said she has approached several other groups, including KUPPEE and KAEE, to see if they wanted to work on raising monies from a variety of sources collaboratively. She said she thought this made more sense in a state as small as ours – especially now that we are doing so many groundbreaking systemic projects.

#### National involvements:

As the Kentucky EE community has become more and more involved in cutting edge issues such as certification, the master plan, and NCATE, Council staff are being asked more and more to participate in national forums. In most of these cases, staff learn a great deal from these opportunities but each out of state meeting (all paid for by non agency funds) means less time spent on state projects. Ms. Eller told council members that she would like to have their input on this.

Mr. Helm said he thought as long as Ms. Eller felt the meetings were beneficial, we should encourage them. Ms. Chandler said that the Kentucky Department of Education had similar experiences. Often the meetings are less productive for us than for colleagues from other states. There was general agreement that these opportunities should be judged on a case-by-case basis.

#### Current agency projects

Council members were given a list of current agency projects (attached). Ms. Eller asked if there were any particular questions about any of them. Through there were no questions, she said she would like to tell them that plans for the Youth Environmental Summit were coming right along and that the planners from the Transportation Cabinet

had become very involved and were even providing funding. Ms. Eller said the Summit was scheduled for March 21 and 22 and she invited Council members to attend.

#### Non agency projects

Ms. Eller reported that she had attended two AWAKE meetings since the last Council meeting and that she felt it would be an excellent website when complete. She also said that KAEE is going to use some of the money the Council had granted it in 2001 to fund a reception at the KSTA meetings. Finally she asked Dr. Martin to discuss KUPPE. Dr. Martin reported that KUPPE had been established through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education brought to the state by Congressmen Whitfield and Senator Bunting. Dr. Joe Baust from Murray had been instrumental in getting that grant. Each University received \$40,000 from the grant and there was some hope that it would be continued next year. Of course, KUPPE will also receive funds from HB 174 next year.

#### Change of Meeting Date

Ms. Eller said that Dr. Meichtry had requested that she ask the Council to consider changing the regular meeting date to Monday, Wednesday or Friday so she could more easily attend since she teaches all day Tuesday and Thursdays and it is difficult for her to miss classes. Council members agreed that Mondays and Fridays were not good meeting dates but that Wednesdays would be fine with those attending. Ms. Eller said she would ask those not able to attend today and, if there were no objections, the meeting date would be changed to the last Wednesday of the first month of each quarter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Approved  
Wm. Horace Brown, Chair

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Date

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Respectfully Submitted  
Jane W. Eller  
Executive Director

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Date